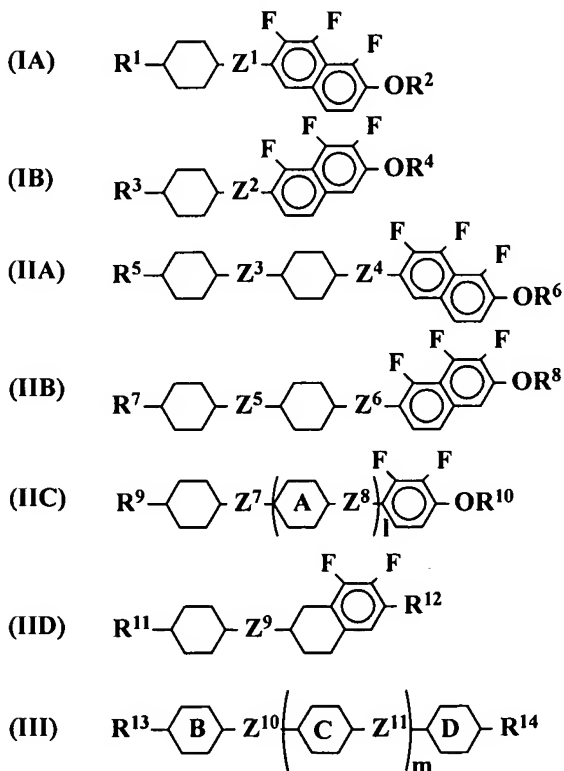


AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT

Please substitute the following paragraph for the abstract now appearing in the currently filed specification:

A nematic liquid crystal composition having a negative dielectric constant anisotropy, comprising one or more compounds selected from the compounds represented by (IA) and (IB) of 10-70% by mass, one or more compounds selected from the compounds represented by (IIA) to (IID) of 10-70% by mass, the total content of one or more compounds selected from the compounds represented by (IA) to (IID) being 35-80% by mass, and a compound represented by (III) of 20-65% by mass:



wherein R^1 to R^{14} each independently represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, etc.; Z^1 to Z^{11} each independently represents a single bond, etc.; Z^1 to Z^6 and Z^9 to Z^{11} each independently represents $-\text{CF}_2\text{O}-$, etc.; l and m represent 0 or 1; rings A, B, C and D represent a

trans-1,4-cyclohexylene group, etc.; and rings B, C and D represent a trans-1,4-cyclohexenylene group.